No.	From whom received.	Subject.
13	Velayudhan Ramen and 70 others of Muvattupuzha &c.	On the Marumakkathayom Marriage Bill.
14	Aiyyappen Krishnen and 57 others of Muvattupuzha &c.	Do.
15	Kasaven Narayanen and 50 others of Mavelikara Taluq	Do.
16	R. Govinda Pillay, President, Vijnanachandrodhayam Sabha, Keerikad, and 19 others ...	Do.
17	Kanaku Nagan Kumaran and 8 others of Kalkulam &c.	Do.
18	Sankaran Narayanen and 135 others of Alleppey ...	Do.
19	Kasava Pillay and 400 others, Neyyattinkara ...	Do.
20	Sankaran Neelcunden and 56 others of Vilavankod.	Do.
21	Kavalam Neelacund Pillay and 1146 others, Quilon.	Do.
22	M. K. Padmanabha Pillay B. A. and 97 others, ... Trivandrum	Do.
23	M. Govinda Pillay, Vakil, Tiruvalla, and 12,520 others	Do.
24	T. N. Mahdavan Valiathan, Kartikapalli ...	Do.
25	Changanchery Mootha Koil Tampuran... ...	Do.
26	Chengannur Gramathil Kottarathil, Mootha Koil Tampuram...	Do.
27	M. C. Kerala Vurma Rajah and 2 others, Mullinekadu Kottaram, Chengannur Taluq	Do.
28	A. Kerala Vurma Rajah and 4 others, Aranmola ...	Do.
29	Narayanan Gotha Vurma Thirumulpad, Mavelikara and 3 others	Do.
30	Raja Raja Vurma, Cherukol Kottaram... ...	Do.
31	Raja Raja Vurma Rajā, Vadakai Kottaram, Mavelikara	Do.
32	Kerala Vurma Tampan B.A. & Rama Vurma Tampan B.A.	Do.
33	Ravi Vurma Rajah M. A. (Madras Provincial Civil Service)	Do.
34	Puthuval Ramen Sankaran, Ampalapuzha ...	Do.
35	Kanaku Tampi Ramen Parameswaran and 49 others	Do.
36	Krishnen Nambudiri and 34 others	Do.
37	Kanaku Govinden Krishnen and 52 others, Karunagapalli Taluq	Do.
38	Kochu Kunju Dharu Dai Pillay and 11 others, Criminal Vakils, Trivandrum	On the Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Bill.
39	Gopal Pye, Alwaye	Do.
40	Subramony Iyen and 8 others, Criminal Vakils ...	Do.
41	K. S. Gopala Pillay, Alangad	Do.
42	Mathavan and 51 others, Tovala &c.	Do.
43	Krishna Iyen and 11 others, Criminal Vakils, Padmanabhapuram Division	Do.
44	The 2nd class Magistrate, Kartikapalli ...	Do.
45	Venkatachalam Iyen and 4 others, Criminal Vakils.	Do.
46	Perumal Narayanen and 54 others, Tovala &c. ...	Do.
47	Umman Gee'Vergese and 24 others	Do.
48	P. T. Thomas, Kayenkulam	On the Penal Code Bill.

GENERAL CLAUSES BILL.

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—I presented the report of the Select Committee at the last meeting and both the report and the Bill as amended by the Select Committee have been published in the Gazette. I now beg to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Mr Thanu Pillai.—We have received no amendments and I presume the members approve of the Bill in its amended form and no further discussion is called for. I would therefore move that the Bill be read finally on a future day of which notice shall be given.

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Seconded by Mr. Ramanatha Rao.

Carried.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Krishnaswamy Rao.—I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Bill. Its consideration has, of course, to await the passing of the Penal Code Bill which is before the Council.

WILLS BILL.

Mr. Krishnaswamy Rao.—I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Wills Bill. The Bill is an important one and I think it has not been sufficiently long before the public in its present revised form. I would therefore move that its consideration be deferred.

Seconded by Mr. Thanu Pillai.

Carried.

IRRIGATION BILL.

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—Before taking up the amendments of which I have given notice I wish to make one or two observations of a general kind. There appears to be an impression that the main object of this Bill is to throw upon the shoulders of the ryots more responsibilities in regard to the construction, restoration and maintenance of irrigation works than ever before. Some of the apparently coercive provisions of the Bill may have led to this view; but as a matter of fact the effect of the Bill is to considerably widen the sphere of the State's obligations and circumscribe the well-understood, if largely neglected, duties of the ryots. As a rule, except in the four southern taluqs and in Shencottah, Government have not concerned themselves directly with irrigation works to any large extent. The responsibility created by the Bill extends, it will be seen, to the whole State in respect of the more important works. In regard to minor works the existing rights are maintained in the taluqs above named, and the necessary power is taken in view to assist the ryots in improving such works in the other taluqs. The duty imposed on the ryots of keeping such works in efficiency is no novelty even in South Travancore where the rule, honored though it may be more in the breach than in the observance, is that the ryots concerned should maintain the works once completely restored by Government. I am sure my friend Mr. Kuruvila whose long experience as the chief Irrigation Officer in South Travancore entitles him to speak with authority on the subject will bear me out in this statement. I would read a passage from a Memorandum of the late Dewan Mr. Ramiengar which clearly indicates the nature and extent of the duties of the ryots in regard to irrigation works in the South:—

"As each tank is thoroughly repaired or restored, it should be made over to the care of the ryots holding cultivation under it, and a writing taken from them binding them to maintain it in good condition by executing annually before the commencement of each cultivation season, the necessary repairs required to it in the way of removing any silt brought down during the preceding rainy season, clearing sluices, filling up gullies &c."

The provision relating to Petty Irrigation works may with some reason be viewed as an innovation. But even here the practice in recent years has been to leave all such works to the ryots themselves; and no one, I take it, will seriously question the expediency of defining and enforcing this practice. In making these observations, all that I wish to point out is that it is far from the intention of this Bill to divest the State of any share of its responsibility or to enhance that of the ryots. If the amendments which I would presently move meet with the Council's acceptance, the Bill would bring under the control of Government all irrigation works of importance throughout the country, enable the willing and industrious ryots to improve, with such State aid as may be needed, works which fall outside such control and teach the people habits of self-help and combination for legitimate purposes.

With these remarks I would go on to the amendments on the paper *seriatim*.

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